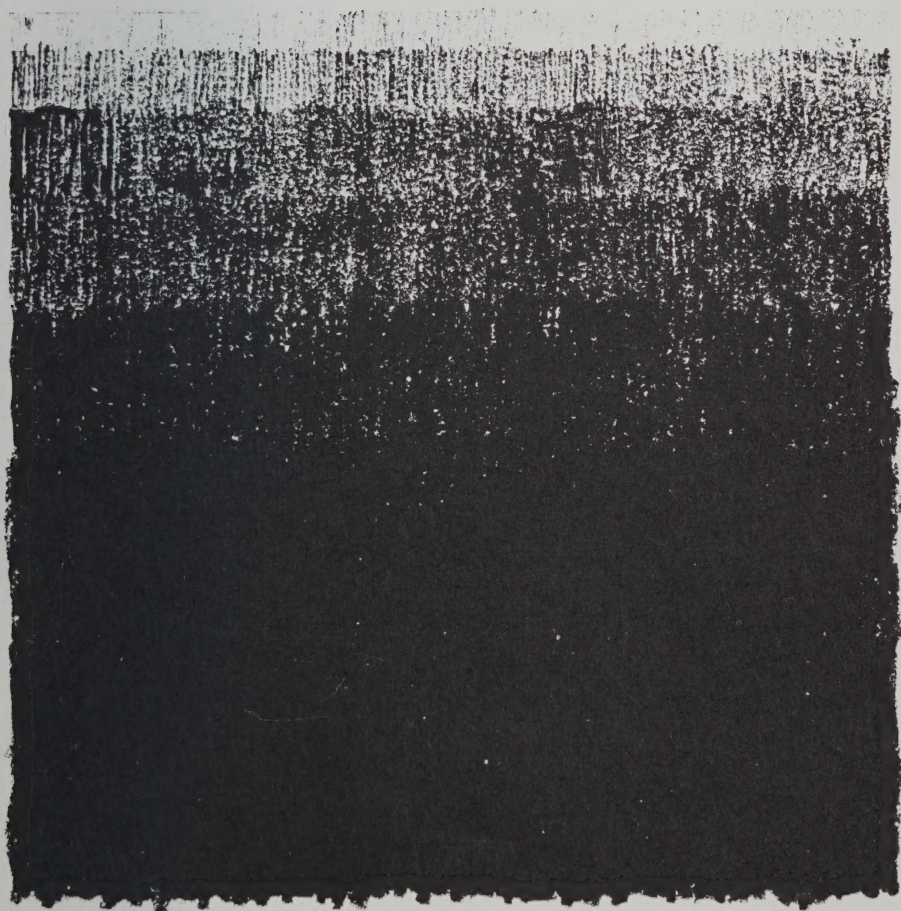


Black is...

1981



Preface

The books on this list, published between November 1979 and October 1980, represent a broad selection suitable for a diverse reading public. BLACK IS...1981 continues the commitment of the Boston Public Library to the annual celebration of Black History Month. This year's list was prepared by Gwendolyn M. Crockett, Elaine P. McLean, and Karen L. Williams.

AFRICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

BLACK GENESIS: AFRICAN ROOTS by Jurgen Vollmer and John Devere

The African experience, past and present, is captured in one hundred photographs which focus on the daily life in Mandingo society.

BLACK JUSTICE by David Umobuarie

The three stories in this collection illustrate the "justice" of the traditional African society which depends on the conscience of the accused. (F)

BLACK KINGDOMS, BLACK PEOPLES: THE WEST AFRICAN HERITAGE by Anthony Atmore and Gillian Stacey

Because large color plates supplement an erudite text, this single volume is both eye-catching and informative.

BLACK WRITERS IN LATIN AMERICA by Richard L. Jackson

Writers from Panama, Uruguay, Ecuador, and Peru have covered "the problem of literary blackness in Latin America."

THE BOOK OF JAMAICA by Russell Banks

A middle-class American tourist is bewildered by his discovery of the "real" Jamaica. (F)

THE BROEDERBOND by Ivor Wilkins and Hans Strydom

The first comprehensive history of the elite Afrikaner organization that controls the apartheid system in South Africa.

CIMARRON by Ricardo Alonso

The struggles created by moving from Puerto Rico to a large unfriendly city have provided powerful material for the pen of this poet.

(F) fiction

COMMUNISM IN AFRICA edited by David E. Albright
Political and economic experts discuss the competition between Western and Communist countries for control of African resources.

CRUSADE FOR LIBERATION by Julius K. Nyerere
When Nyerere, President of Tanzania, visited President Carter in 1976, they discussed at length the guerilla warfare in Angola, Rhodesia, Namibia, South Africa, and Mozambique.

A DRY WHITE SEASON by Andre Brink
Naively believing in the fairness of the judicial system of his country, an Afrikaner sets out to investigate the unexplained death of a black acquaintance. (F)

HAILE SELASSIE I: ETHIOPIA'S LION OF JUDAH
by Peter Schwab
The most famous contemporary monarch in Africa, who ruled from 1916 to 1974, was also a complex and secretive individual.

THE HOUSE OF HUNGER: A NOVELLA AND SHORT STORIES
by Dambudzo Marechera
With the peculiar vision only an insider could have, Marechera recreates the brutal, often insane, mode of life within a black Zimbabwe township. (F)

MAROON SOCIETIES: REBEL SLAVE COMMUNITIES IN THE AMERICAS edited by Richard Price
The study of communities formed by escaped slaves in the Western Hemisphere, whether in the "cockpit country" of Jamaica, or among the "Bush Negroes" of Surinam, should dispel forever the notion of black acquiescence to slavery.

ON LEAVING PARADISE by Frank Hercules

A young man forsakes his sheltered life and Victorian upbringing in Trinidad to pursue more worldly pleasures in Madeira and England. (F)

REMEMBRANCE AND PANTOMIME by Derek Walcott

Two plays are the vehicles which illustrate the after-effects of British colonialism on West Indian society. One shows an elderly black teacher who loves British culture; the other concerns a retired actor living in Tobago.

THE RETURN OF EVA PERON WITH THE KILLINGS IN TRINIDAD by V. S. Naipaul

The four essays by this world-renowned writer explore themes of greed, plunder, disorder, and cynicism in Argentina, Zaire, and his own country, Trinidad.

TREASURES OF ANCIENT NIGERIA by Ekpo Eyo and Frank Willett

Dr. Eyo and Professor Willett compiled not only an excellent survey of Nigerian art history, but also a beautifully illustrated work.

THE WEATHER IN AFRICA by Martha Gellhorn

These three simply told, absorbing stories paint the African landscape, the lifestyle of the black population, and the prejudices and fears of the old colonialists. (F)

WEST INDIAN LITERATURE edited by Bruce King

Here is the first comprehensive historical and critical survey of West Indian creative writing with an introduction to the major authors and their important works.

WEST INDIAN POETRY by Lloyd W. Brown

Using vivid examples, the author explores poetry from the written words of Claude McKay and Edward Braithwaite to the calypso lyrics of Louise Bennett and Sparrow.

BLACK EXPRESSION

ALEXANDRE DUMAS, THE KING OF ROMANCE

by F. W. J. Hemmings

The Dumas, pere, of 19th century French literature led as dramatic a life as any of the characters in his famous yarns.

ARNA BONTEMPS-LANGSTON HUGHES LETTERS, 1925-1967
edited by Charles H. Nichols

The correspondence between two of the prime movers of the Harlem Renaissance reveals as much about black cultural history as it does about the development of a friendship.

BLACK FILM AS A GENRE by Thomas Cripps

Mr. Cripps highlights several little-known films such as the documentary, "The Blood of Jesus," and the armed forces' promotional film, "The Negro Soldier."

THE BLACK WOMAN'S BEAUTY BOOK by La Verne Powlis

Knowing how to make the most of her natural looks assures every black woman that she can look as good as she feels.

CHANT OF SAINTS: A GATHERING OF AFRO-AMERICAN LITERATURE, ART AND SCHOLARSHIP edited by Michael S. Harper and Robert B. Steptoe

More than an anthology of poetry and prose, this "gathering" includes criticism, art, photography, and interviews with such notables as Toni Morrison, Derek Walcott, and Gail Jones.

THE COLLECTED POEMS OF STERLING A. BROWN

Brown is a complex artist whose stylistic trademark is the incorporation of black music forms into his poetry.

A DARKNESS AT INGRAHAM'S CREST: A TALE OF THE SLAVE-HOLDING SOUTH by Frank Yerby

A sequel to The Dahomean, this plantation saga features the larger-than-life slave hero, Hwesu (Wes). (F)

GOOD NIGHT WILLIE LEE by Alice Walker

In her poetry Walker's women are not only African, American, rich, poor, Northern, Southern, famous, and obscure, but they are also compelling, complete, and a complement to the "brothers" also portrayed.

THE HARLEM BOOK OF THE DEAD by James Van DerZee

These graphic reminders of loved ones reveal a time when society cared for the living and the dead and harbored a belief that one must preserve a high standard of pride in spiritual as well as temporal values.

HOW TO BE A TOP MODEL by Naomi Sims

Ms. Sims wants to put any person interested in a modeling career ahead of the game.

I LOVE MYSELF WHEN I AM LAUGHING...AND THEN AGAIN WHEN I AM LOOKING MEAN AND IMPRESSIVE by Zora Neale Hurston

The long-awaited collection of essays, articles, short fiction, and excerpts from this talented and colorful writer can only be greeted with the warmest enthusiasm.

JAMBEAUX by Laurence Gonzales

The activities of the "Afro-Jamaican-Cajun-Funk" rock and roll band, Jambeaux, depict vividly the harsher realities of life on the rock circuit. (F)

THE JOURNEY BACK: ISSUES IN BLACK LITERATURE AND CRITICISM by Houston A. Baker

Focusing mainly on modern writers from the 1950's to the present, Baker traces the cultural evolution of Black literature.

KEEP-A-INCHIN' ALONG: SELECTED WRITINGS OF CARL VAN VECHTEN ABOUT BLACK ARTS AND LETTERS

The patron of such black artists as Bessie Smith and Zora Neale Hurston labored to advance the cause of Blacks in the arts and founded the invaluable James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection of Arts and Letters at Yale University.

KELLY AMONG THE NIGHTINGALES by J. F. Burke

When a book editor working on the tell-all memoirs of an ex-madame is murdered, Sam Kelly, an easy-going black private eye, goes into action. (F)

LET THE LION EAT STRAW by Ellese Southerland

From rural North Carolina to ultra-urban Brooklyn, Abeba turns from a concert career to become the mother of fifteen children. The essence of her story is told with honesty and passion. (F)

MAD DOG BLACK LADY by Wanda Coleman

In the tradition of Ntozake Shange, these poems illuminate some facets of black life for black women in particular.

MIDNIGHT BIRDS: STORIES BY CONTEMPORARY BLACK WOMEN WRITERS edited by Mary Helen Washington

As in the earlier anthology, Black-eyed Susans, the characters in these stories are black women who struggle for liberation, survival, self-knowledge, and decent, loving relationships. (F)

PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR by Peter Revell

This serious and much needed criticism of a major black writer is part of the celebrated Twayne's Authors Series.

PRAYERS FOR DARK PEOPLE by W. E. B. Du Bois

Written as a religious guide for his students, this inspiring collection of prayers unfolds simple and universal values.

RICHARD WRIGHT: ORDEAL OF A NATIVE SON by Addison Gayle, Jr.

Wright struggled as a black man and as an artist. New information from FBI, CIA, and State Department files shows that his "ordeal" also included harassment by the American government.

ROPE OF WIND AND OTHER STORIES by Henry Dumas

This collection of twelve short stories, written between 1957 and 1965, displays the talent of this little-known author killed in a case of "mistaken identity" by a New York police officer. (F)

ROSIEBELLE LEE WILDCAT TENNESSEE by Raymond Andrews

Returning to the small north Georgia cotton town that inspired his award-winning first novel, Appalachee Red, Andrews creates a character who has the force of a folk heroine and the charm of a natural beauty queen. (F)

SALLY HEMINGS by Barbara Chase-Riboud

This novel speculates on the often-asked question, "Did Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, maintain an intimate relationship with his slave, 'Black Sal,' that produced seven children?" (F)

SELECTED PLAYS AND PROSE and SELECTED POETRY
by Imamu Amiri Baraka

Since the 1960's Baraka (Leroi Jones) has been recognized as Black America's foremost writer of the literature of revolution.

A SHORT WALK by Alice Childress

Rich in proverbs and dialect, Childress' eighth novel places one woman's life in historical and social context, thereby exploring events and circumstances which shaped the Black Experience during the first half of the 1900's. (F)

THE THIRD WOMAN: MINORITY WOMEN WRITERS OF THE
UNITED STATES edited by Dexter Fisher

Whether Black, Chicana, Asian, or Amerindian, these writers exhibit a commonality of experience as they treat subjects touching heritage, relationships, and identity.

TRAVELING LIGHT by Lionel Mitchell

On a free-wheeling odyssey from the rural South to New York City, Boo Carter meets one of the richest assortments of off-beat characters in literary history. (F)

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

THE AMBUSH MURDERS: THE TRUE ACCOUNT OF THE KILLING OF TWO CALIFORNIA POLICEMEN by Ben Bradlee, Jr.

Amidst a climate of intense community emotion, an inexperienced police department must prove that two of its young white members were murdered by three black men.

THE BLACK UNDERCLASS: POVERTY, UNEMPLOYMENT AND ENTRAPMENT OF GHETTO YOUTH by Douglas Glasgow

Glasgow puts forward a detailed analysis--with some workable solutions--of the institutional processes and practices that predispose black inner-city youth to social and economic failure.

THE DECLINING SIGNIFICANCE OF RACE: BLACKS AND CHANGING AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS by William Wilson

Mr. Wilson explores the notions that other forms of social stigma have displaced racial prejudice and that our economy is capable of resolving the very racial tensions it has created.

DRYLONGSO: A SELF-PORTRAIT OF BLACK AMERICA by John Langston Gwaltney

Based on field research in the early 1970's, this is a compilation of "drylongso" (ordinary) middle-class subjects who speak their minds.

GOIN' HOME by Timeri Murari

A young black couple leaves Mattapan to return "home" to Alabama only to discover that the "New South" is not so new after all.

THE HARDEST LESSON: PERSONAL ACCOUNTS OF A SCHOOL
DESEGREGATION CRISIS by Pamela Bullard and
Judith Stoia

A cross-section of the Boston community relates their personal "horror stories" of the crisis that permanently changed the lives of all involved.

MIXED FAMILIES by Joyce Ladner

Using case studies, personal testimonies, and interviews with black social workers, a well-known sociologist reports on those black individuals who have been adopted by whites.

RUNNIN' DOWN SOME LINES: THE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE
OF BLACK TEENAGERS by Edith Folk

In a world that is cut off from mainstream America, a group of Los Angeles teenagers creates a picturesque language known as "street talk," which serves as a defense against outsiders.

TALES OF AN ALL-NIGHT TOWN by Elin Shoen

The death of James Bollinger in a shoot-out with a fellow police deputy brings into focus the effect that the all-black town of Brooklyn, Illinois, has on the lives of its inhabitants.

A TRUE DELIVERANCE by Fred Harwell

After reconstructing the story of Joan Little, who was tried for murdering her jail guard, a lawyer-journalist examines the questions never answered.

YOU GOTTA DEAL WITH IT: BLACK FAMILY RELATIONS
IN A SOUTHERN COMMUNITY by Theodore Kennedy

Black family life in small southern towns has not changed much despite economic and political gains made during the 1970's.

HISTORY

BLACK BOSTONIANS: FAMILY LIFE AND COMMUNITY STRUGGLE IN THE ANTEBELLUM NORTH

by James O. and Lois Horton

Most of the information available on black families concerns slavery in the South; the Hortons have filled a void by giving us a good introduction to black family and community life, organizations, church involvement, and anti-slavery militancy.

BLACK DETROIT AND THE RISE OF THE UAW

by August Meier and Elliott Rudwick

Through careful documentation, the authors trace the transformation in the relationship between a black community and organized labor in a major industrial city.

CIVILITIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS: GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA AND THE BLACK STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM

by William H. Chafe

Using written and oral sources, Mr. Chafe gives a sound history of black protest in Greensboro. He explains the "progressive mystique" and how it operated and the extent to which "civility" was or was not compatible with the promise of racial justice.

FREEDOM'S FIRST GENERATION: BLACK HAMPTON, VIRGINIA, 1861-1890

by Robert F. Eng

Mr. Eng analyzes the interaction between blacks and whites as they evolved contrasting views and appraises the consequences to the black community.

FROM REBELLION TO REVOLUTION; AFRO-AMERICAN SLAVE
REVOLTS IN THE MAKING OF THE MODERN WORLD

by Eugene D. Genovese

In this comparative history Mr. Genovese presents the theory that after L'Ouverture's succesful revolt, slave uprisings merged with national and international revolutionary movements and deeply affected the formation of modern world politics.

FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM: A HISTORY OF NEGRO
AMERICANS by John Hope Franklin

The fifth edition of this recognized authoritative work takes into account recent developments in the field of Afro-American historical scholarship; coverage is extended to include the revolutionary beginnings of the 1970's to the close of the decade.

A HISTORY OF FISK UNIVERSITY, 1865-1946

by Joe Richardson

This well-documented history traces the development of one of America's most prestigious black universities from its meager beginnings in an old Union hospital to its salvation by the "Jubilee Singers" through the Second World War.

PAUL ROBESON SPEAKS; WRITINGS, SPEECHES, INTERVIEWS,
1918-1974 edited by Philip S. Foner

At last, a collection of the words, thoughts, and ideals of Paul Robeson, noticeably missing from recent books on history of the black liberation struggle.

THE RESURGENCE OF RACE; BLACK SOCIAL THEORY FROM RECONSTRUCTION TO THE PAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE by William Toll

A documented interpretation of the debate between black writers and activists on the best course for the social advancement of blacks after the Civil War: social rehabilitation (Booker T. Washington) or cultural revitalization (W. E. B. Du Bois).

SLAVE AND CITIZEN: THE LIFE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS by Nathan Huggins

In an effort to persuade others to the cause of black freedom, Frederick Douglass entered the mainstream of the reform movements in America; his life illustrated the dilemmas of a painful transition in this nation's history.

PERSONALITIES

ALMOST A FAMOUS PERSON by Herb Michelson

After falling victim to the myth that sports is the black man's salvation, a disillusioned semi-professional player ends his life.

DADDY KING: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY by Martin Luther King, Sr.

The Reverend King, who helped lay the groundwork for the Civil Rights movement, is still active and deeply religious but, most important, free of hate.

FATS WALLER by Maurice Waller and Anthony Calabrese

Waller's son looks back at his life with his father whom he saw not only as a great jazz pianist but also as an exasperating and joyous man.

HOLLYWOOD IN A SUITCASE by Sammy Davis, Jr.

Davis leads us on an idiosyncratic tour of Hollywood and discusses whatever strikes his fancy.

I'M ALIVE: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY by Cecil Williams

Having recovered from a nervous breakdown, this dynamic religious leader feels that he now has a better understanding of life's adversaries--real or imaginary.

JIMI HENDRIX: VOODOO CHILD OF THE AQUARIAN AGE by David Henderson

The development of Jimi's music chronicled the events of the revolutionary sixties.

THE NARRATIVE OF HOSEA HUDSON: HIS LIFE AS A NEGRO COMMUNIST IN THE SOUTH by Nell Irvin Painter

This fascinating oral history describes Hudson's roles as labor organizer and party leader in the South when the Communist Party was an exclusively black political movement.

THIS LIFE by Sidney Poitier

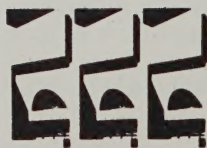
In a relaxed conversational approach, Poitier gives an account of his rise from a poor Bahamian childhood to a life of glamour, wealth, and achievement.

TO SMILE IN AUTUMN: A MEMOIR by Gordon Parks

After achieving his artistic goals, Parks realizes that he has become a social oddity to whites and almost a stranger in the Black world.

WITH HEAD AND HEART: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF HOWARD THURMAN

This inspirational biography concentrates on the spiritual and intellectual growth of the founder of the first interracial/interdenominational church and former Boston University faculty member.



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